

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CPAS, YO (SAGANIC, LIVIO)

SUBJECT: US STUDENT PROGRAM, 1976/77

REF: BELGRADE 464 (NOTAL) STATE 24429 (NOTAL)

1. SAGANIC HAS DISCUSSED QUESTION OF HIS LIABILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE IN YUGOSLAVIA WITH YUGOSLAV CONSUL HERE. WAS ADVISED THAT HE MAY APPLY FOR DEFERMENT AS YUGOSLAV CITIZEN RESIDING PERMANENTLY ABROAD, BUT MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO "VOJNI OTSEK" OF "OPSTINA" WHERE HE LAST RESIDED, IN THIS CASE ISLAND OF CRES. PROCEDURE WOULD PROBABLY TAKE MORE TIME THAN SAGANIC HAS BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR YUGOSLAVIA, ASSUMING HIS NOMINATION IS APPROVED BY AYEC. IN ADDITION, THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT APPLICATION FOR DEFERMENT WOULD BE APPROVED.

2. SAGANIC WCOULD ALSO APPLY TO RENOUNCE HIS YUGOSLAV CITIZENSHIP, BUT ONCE AGAIN, ACCORDING TO YUGOSLAV CONSUL, PROCEDURE IS LENGTHY (6-12) MONTHS), AND OUTCOME UNCERTAIN.

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3. ON PERSONAL, UNOFFICIAL BASIS, YUGOSLAV COUSUL TOLD

SAGANIC THAT IN ALL LIKELIHOOD QUESTION OF MILITARY SERVICE WOULD NOT EVEN ARISE DURING HIS STUDIES IN YUGOSLAVIA, ESPECIALLY IF HE COMES UNDER AYESC AUSPICES. IN ADDITION, CONSUL SAID HE UNDERSTANDS (ALTHOUGH HE HAS SEEN NOTHING IN WRITING) THAT MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN RECENT YEARS SELDOM DRAFT YUGOSLAVS LIVING ABROAD UNLESS: THEY HAVE LEFT COUNTRY ILLEGALLY TO AVOID DRAFT; THEY ARE INVOLVED IN ANTI-GOY ACTIVITIES; AND/OR THEY GET INTO TROUBLE WITH OFFICIALS BACK HOME (USUALLY IN SMALLER TOWNS).

4. GIVEN THESE ALTERNATIVES, SAGANIC HAS DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO APPLY FOR EITHER DEFERMENT OR RENUNCIATION, AND IS WILLING TO UNDERGO RISK INVOLVED. HE LEFT YUGOSLAVIA AT AGE 12 WITH HIS FAMILY, HAS VISITED THERE TWICE SINCE THEN, AND HAD NO DIFFICULTIES WHATSOEVER. SAGANIC STATED HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE APOLITICAL AND HAVE NO INVOLVEMENT WITH YUGOSLAV EMIGRE GROUPS IN THE U.S. HE BELIEVES THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE THAT QUESTION OF MILITARY SERVICE WILL BE RAISED SINCE HE DOES NOT PLAN TO SPEND ANY TIME ON CRES, AND HE DOUBTS THAT AUTHORITIES IN ZAGREB OR LJUBLJANA, WHERE HIS PROJECT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN, WOULD BE AWARE OF, OR CONCERNED ABOUT, HIS POTENTIAL LIABILITY FOR THE DRAFT.

5. DEPTOFF ALSO DISCUSSED MATTER INFORMALLY WITH YUGOSLAV CONSUL WHO CONFIRMED ADVICE GIVEN TO SAGANIC, ADDING THAT YUGOSLAV EMBASSY COULD GIVE NO CONCRETE ASSURANCES THAT SAGANIC WOULD NOT BE DRAFTED, BUT CHANCES ARE EXTREMELY REMOTE, FOR REASONS GIVEN ABOVE.

6. UNLESS YUGOSLAV MEMBERS OF AYESC SEE PROBLEMS IN SAGANIC'S NOMINATION, DEPT SEES NO REASON WHY HE SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION. IF APPROVED, AND HE RETURNS TO YUGOSLAVIA, HE WILL DO SO WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF POSSIBLE MILITARY OBLIGATION AS A YUGOSLAV CITIZEN.
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